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To Whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in strongest support for continued, full funding for the FIMR groups in Connecticut. Furthermore, we support the expansion of the funding to add additional FIMR groups in other areas of the state with high fetal and infant mortality rates and the creation of a more centralized and functional DPH committee to help create and fund local and regional interventions.

As the Founder and President of the *Hygeia Foundation, Inc.* a non-profit organization dedicated to the sole purpose of improving Perinatal Outcomes and Maternal and Child Health, I have worked integrally with the New Haven Department of Health and the FIMR program in New Haven. Great strides have been made in surveillance and interventions in New Haven and this has been done with the efforts of an expert and tireless team, along with strong collaboration with local institutions and in kind organizations such as ours.

We believe it will be detrimental and regressive to withdraw any funding to the FIMR Programs and furthermore support increasing such funding in an effort to further improve Perinatal Outcomes in New Haven and beyond.

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